



BOROUGH OF BLYTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

INCORPORATING THAT OF THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1951



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

"DINSDALE"

MARINE TERRACE

BLYTH

NORTHUMBERLAND



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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : ALDERMAN DONNACHIE
Vice-Chairman : ALDERMAN MITCHELL
 (Died 25th February, 1951)
 COUNCILLOR G. W. BARKER
 (Appointed 28th June, 1951)

THE MAYOR ALDERMAN CURRY COUNCILLOR ALLISON „ ELDER „ HEPPLE „ HOOPER „ KAY „ LAING „ PROCTOR	COUNCILLOR RHODES „ ROURKE „ RUTHERFORD „ RYDER „ SEARLE „ SMITH „ SOULSBY „ SUMMERS „ TWEDDLE
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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1951

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	A DONALDSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
<i>Senior Sanitary Inspector</i>	G. A. GILL, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
<i>Additional Sanitary Inspector</i>	N. F. GODFREY, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
<i>Additional Sanitary Inspector</i>	W. ALLAN, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
<i>Temporary Clerk</i>	C. FELLOWS
<i>Temporay Shorthand Typist</i>	B. I. REDBURN
<i>Rodent Officer</i>	R. CRAMP (Service terminated 6/10/51) B. WADE (Appointed 22/10/51)

BOROUGH OF BLYTH

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1951

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Conditions in the Borough during the year 1951.

The population was given as 34,110 which is a decrease of 1,190 from 1950. This is due almost certainly to the fact that the 1951 census produced more accurate figures. Previously the figures were estimates and liable to error.

The Birth Rate rose from 18.8 per 1,000 estimated population to 19.7. This is interesting and gratifying as the Birth Rate for the country fell from 15.8 per 1,000 to 15.5. The Blyth rate is greatly above the average and here is a town obviously very much alive with a growing population of young people. The provision of adequate housing accommodation may well be an important factor in the high Birth Rate.

I am very pleased to report that the Infant Mortality rate (Deaths of infants under 1 year) was 31.1 per 1,000 live births. This is a record low figure for Blyth. There were 21 infant deaths—10 of these were infants under 1 month.

Tuberculosis is the most important infectious disease which occurs in Blyth and there is still cause for concern at the rising death rate from this disease. This matter is discussed at length elsewhere in this report.

For the second successive year no case of diphtheria was notified in the Borough.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee I would extend my thanks for their encouragement

and interest and to the Officials of other departments for their unfailing courtesy at all times. I would like to thank the Health Department staff for their co-operation and teamwork during the year.

I remain,

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. DONALDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Blyth.

COMMENTS ON STATISTICS

POPULATION.—The registrar-general's estimated mid-1951 population was 34,110. This figure although showing a decrease is certainly more accurate than in former years because of the census returns of 1951.

UNCORRECTED BIRTH RATE.—The birth rate rose to 19.7 per 1,000 population which is greatly above the average for the country.

CRUDE DEATH RATE.—The death rate increased from 11.8 per 1,000 in 1950 to 13.28 in 1951. There were 314 deaths of persons over the age of 65, this being 69% of the total deaths.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.—(Deaths of infants under 1 year). The rate of 31.1 per 1,000 live births was the lowest ever recorded in Blyth. There were 21 infant deaths.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE.—(Deaths of infants under 1 month). The neo-natal death rate of 14.83 per 1,000 births was also the lowest recorded in Blyth. There were 10 neo-natal deaths.

THE STILL BIRTH RATE.—The still birth rate fell from 27.9 per 1,000 live and still births to 17.4.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.—There were no maternal deaths in Blyth during 1951.

DEATHS.—Deaths from cardio-vascular causes were 202—the commonest cause of death (43%).

Cancer deaths amounted to 61 (13%). Of these 19 were cancer of the stomach.

The greatest number of deaths were recorded in January and the fewest in September.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Measles and Whooping Cough occurred to a much lesser extent than in 1950 there being 490 and 88 cases respectively.

Pulmonary tuberculosis notifications rose from 84 in 1950 to 88 in 1951.

There were no cases notified of the following diseases : Poliomyelitis, typhoid, food poisoning or diphtheria.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were 800 cases of infectious disease notified in Blyth during 1951—a decrease of 361 from 1950.

MEASLES.—As in former years this was the commonest notifiable infectious disease there being 490 cases. There were no deaths.

WHOOPING COUGH.—There were 93 cases notified compared with 282 in 1950. There was one death from whooping cough in an infant under the age of 1 year. Although the fall in cases is a natural one it is hoped that M. & C.W. Clinics and general practitioners will advocate inoculation against this disease. I have no doubt, that these inoculations if given correctly between the ages of $1\frac{1}{2}$ –6 months, minimise the chances of the child contracting this disease and certainly mitigate the severity of the disease if infection occurs. Whooping cough is probably the most distressing children's disease and the most fatiguing for patient and parent and everything to lessen its effects should be attempted especially within the first six months of life.

I have not the same faith in the combined diphtheria and pertussis vaccine as the two vaccines used separately—I feel that the maximum benefit is not always obtained.

SCARLET FEVER.—There were 57 cases of scarlet fever. There were no deaths.

MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION.—There were five cases of meningococcal infection with one death.

There were no notified cases of the following diseases—Typhoid, paratyphoid, poliomyelitis, acute encephalitis, food poisoning or diphtheria.

It is gratifying to report no cases of diphtheria for the second successive year. Every effort to maintain a high immunisation rate in the community must be made.

TUBERCULOSIS.—There were 90 cases of tuberculosis notified during the year, 88 pulmonary, 2 non-pulmonary.

One reason for the steady notification rate is the use being made of the mass radiography unit and the stringent contact examination made by the Chest Clinic staff.

Early diagnosis means early treatment and allows contacts to be examined. This policy will have its effect in the future.

At the end of 1951 there were 369 cases of tuberculosis on the register—325 pulmonary, 44 non-pulmonary.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.—The following is a list of the infectious diseases compulsorily notifiable in the Borough—

Smallpox, diphtheria, cholera, erysipelas, acute poliomyelitis, meningococcal infection, ophthalmia neonatorum, puerperal pyrexia, scarlet fever, acute encephalitis, tuberculosis, acute primary pneumonia, acute influenzal pneumonia, malaria, dysentery, food poisoning, measles, whooping cough and fevers known by the following names (Typhus, enteric, relapsing or continued).

TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis continues to be a grave problem in Blyth. Although the cases notified were less than 1950 (90 compared with 92), the numbers on the register continue to increase. There were 369 cases on the tuberculosis register at the end of 1951—an increase of 27 over 1950.

A further disturbing fact is the number of active sputum positive cases who are allowed to return to their homes and who are at liberty to move about the population—unrestricted. True, all have been instructed in hygienic and preventive measures while in Sanatorium but I consider that these patients constitute a definite risk of infection, especially to their families, and that many of the very old patients who fail to attend the Chest Clinic regularly are a menace to society. This is especially true where young children come into contact with them. The Chest Clinic is exceedingly careful regarding the checking of contacts and I am sure the physicians are well aware of the dangers that exist from these open cases. Young children are offered vaccination against tuberculosis where they are

coming in contact with any cases at all. This vaccination is one which allows the child to develop a considerable immunity to tuberculosis and lessens the risk of contracting the disease.

Where a patient is confined to bed and has an isolated room, the danger of infecting other persons is minimised but the housing problem is so acute in Blyth that it is not possible to carry out this obvious preventive measure to anything like the extent that is required. It has been stated that advanced cases, probably beyond cure, if admitted to hospital, deprive patients of bedspace who would benefit greatly from Sanatorium treatment. No doubt this is perfectly true and if complete isolation can be obtained at home it is right that a chronic patient should not impede a case capable of being cured. But what of the open case returning to overcrowded conditions and being in contact with children, adolescents and young people? Are these cases to remain as open foci of infection? Are the contacts not as important as a curable case? Would it not be less expensive to prevent infection by retaining the open case in hospital than having more than one person under constant review where the open case returns to a crowded household?

The tuberculosis case rate in Blyth is 10.8 per 1,000 population and 2.2 per 1,000 population are active sputum positive cases.

Case Rate per 1,000 population :—

1947	8.1	per 1,000
1948	7.5	„ „
1949	8.1	„ „
1950	9.7	„ „
1951	10.2	„ „

AGED AND CHRONIC SICK

The National Health Service Act, 1946, was meant to be an advance in the medical services of the Country. In most cases it was an advance. It brought the benefits of skilled treatment within the reach of almost every person in the land. As far as the aged and chronic sick are concerned, however, there has been a retrogression in their

care and management. This is not due to a lessening of interest in their well being by their doctors or the Health Authorities but due to the inability of the Regional Hospital Board to accommodate and care for this unfortunate section of the population.

In the days of Municipal hospitals there was never this acute bed shortage, waiting lists were cleared in a matter of days and urgent cases could be admitted somewhere at once.

The position at the present time is such that the general practitioner, knowing that it is almost impossible to obtain an admission of this kind, often does not try. There is no intermediate authority with powers to obtain an admission. This, in my opinion, should be the responsibility of the M.O.H. He is well qualified to judge both on medical and social conditions and in most cases would be willing to bear the responsibility. Even now his designation can play a part in obtaining admission of an urgent case where his actual authority is non-existent.

Why should it be necessary to certify a patient to obtain a hospital bed ? Many patients—rightly diagnosed as senile dementia—are not really patients requiring certification, they are patients requiring hospital nursing.

No one wishes to remove a patient to hospital if the patient can be nursed at home. However, it requires relatives to carry out such measures and where relatives are within reasonable distance, and attentive, hospitalisation is unnecessary. There is an increasing number of old men and women who appear either to be alone in the world or who are entirely neglected by their relatives. Family responsibility is no longer something that can be taken for granted. The present generation appear to be losing the family unity of former days.

Much can be done for the aged and chronic sick by home nursing and the Home Help Service but there comes a time when the patient becomes bedridden, or so helpless and the danger of fire becomes so acute, that the patient and the community must be protected. In such cases, hospital care is indicated, but often only obtained if the patient refuses to be admitted and the National Assistance Act, 1948, has to be invoked.

I trust the Regional Hospital Boards have plans for dealing with this very important and pressing problem. It is a problem which will increase very rapidly in the future. One feels that many of the infectious disease hospitals—now almost empty—could be utilised for this type of patient. I cannot visualise these hospitals ever being used for infectious diseases as they were in former years.

Finally, a plea to have a co-ordinating officer for dealing with these chronic cases—someone with whom the family doctor could get in touch and someone in whom he can share his responsibility.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

AREA.—No change. ACREAGE.—6,487.

POPULATION.—Registrar-General's Estimate, 30th June, 1951—34,110.

RATEABLE VALUE (1st April, 1951).—£177,379.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE (estimated).—£691.

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Comparability Factor—Birth 1.02 Deaths 1.15.

	1951	1950
The uncorrected Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated Home population	19.7	18.8
The standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated Home population	20.09	—
The Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated Home population	13.28	11.8
The standardised Death Rate per 1,000 estimated Home population	15.27	—
The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	31.15	46.9
The Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (dying in 4 weeks per 1,000 Births	14.83	31.8
The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	17.4	27.9
Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 population.....	0.65	0.48
Maternal Mortality	Nil	Nil

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Number of Births (Live) ...	705	658	764	858	737	708	660	674
Number of Deaths	397	394	440	469	362	422	417	453
Number of Births in excess of Deaths	308	264	324	389	375	286	243	221

Infantile Deaths and Infantile Mortality Rates for Ten Year Period 1942—1951

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Deaths	23	39	50	38	48	45	40	28	31	21
Infant Mortality Rate	42.6	64.5	70.9	57.7	62.8	52.4	54.2	39.5	46.9	31.15

The principal causes of Infant Deaths were as follows:—

Broncho Pneumonia	1	(Neo-Natal)	4
Acute Bronchitis			2
Whooping Cough			1
Gastro-Enteritis			1
Prematurity	4	(Neo-Natal)	4
Oesophageal Atresia	1	(Neo-Natal)	1
Spina Bifida	1	(Neo-Natal)	1
Congenital Heart Disease	1	(Neo-Natal)	1
Convulsions			1
Hydrocephalus			2
Haemolytic disease of Newborn	1	(Neo-Natal)	1
Congenital Atelectasis	1	(Neo-Natal)	1
Fibrocystic disease of Pancreas			1
	10	(Neo-Natal)	21

Neo-Natal Deaths (Infants who died within 4 weeks).

Infant Deaths, 1951

POSSIBLY AVOIDABLE		UNAVOIDABLE	
Broncho Pneumonia	4	Prematurity	4
Acute Bronchitis	2	Oesophageal Atresia	1
Whooping Cough	1	Spina Bifida	1
Gastro-Enteritis	1	Congenital Heart Disease	1
		Convulsions	1
		Hydrocephalus	2
		Haemolytic disease of Newborn	1
		Congenital Atelectasis	1
		Fibrocystic disease of Pancreas	1
	8		13

DEATHS FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1951

Code No.	International Classification	Male	Female	Total
002	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12	7	19
010	Tuberculosis of Meninges	2	—	2
011	„ Peritoneum	1	—	1
016	„ Kidney	1	—	1
025	Dementia Paralytica	—	1	1
053	Septicaemia	1	—	1
056	Whooping Cough	—	1	1
057	Meningococcal infection	1	—	1
142.1	Malignant Neoplasm—Submaxillary gland	—	1	1
146	„ „ —Nasopharynx	—	1	1
150	„ „ —Oesophagus	2	—	2
151	„ „ —Stomach	9	9	18
153	„ „ —Large Intestine	1	3	4
154	„ „ —Rectum	1	1	2
155	„ „ —Liver	1	2	3
157	„ „ —Pancreas	1	—	1

DEATHS FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1951—continued.

Code No.	International Classification	Male	Female	Total
160	Malignant Neoplasm—Upper Jaw	2	—	2
161	" " —Larynx	1	—	1
162	" " —Bronchogenic	5	2	7
170	" " —Breast	—	4	4
171	" " —Cervix	—	2	2
172	" " —Uterus	—	3	3
175	" " —Ovary	—	1	1
176	" " —Female genital organs	—	1	1
177	" " —Prostate	4	—	4
180	" " —Kidney	1	—	1
181	" " —Bladder	1	—	1
190	" " —Eye	—	1	1
200.1	" " —Lymphosarcoma	1	—	1
223	Brain Tumour	1	1	2
252	Thyrotoxicosis	—	1	1
260	Diabetes	4	3	7
290	Pernicious Anaemia	1	1	2
330	Subarachnoid haemorrhage	3	2	5
331	Cerebral haemorrhage	18	17	35
332	Cerebral embolism and Thrombosis	7	10	17
334	Cerebral arteriosclerosis	1	1	2
342	Intracranial Abscess	1	—	1
343	Encephalitis	—	1	1
350	Paralysis agitans	—	4	4
353.1	Epilepsy	1	—	1
410	Disease of Mitral Valve	4	—	4
420	Myocardial degeneration and Coronary obstruction	9	5	14
420.1	Arteriosclerosis and Coronary obstruction	36	17	53
420.2	Arteriosclerosis with Angina Pectoris	6	4	10
421	Mitral Stenosis	1	1	2
422	CardioVascular degeneration	35	23	58
422.1	Other myocardial degeneration with arteriosclerosis	2	1	3
422.2	Other myocardial degeneration	8	3	11
431	Acute myocarditis	—	1	1
433.1	Auricular Fibrillation	3	2	5
434.1	Congestive heart failure	4	—	4
434.2	Left ventricular failure	1	2	3
440	Hypertensive disease with myocardial degeneration	2	3	5
441	Essential malignant hypertension	1	—	1
442	Hypertensive disease with arteriolar nephrosclerosis	—	2	2
454	Arterial embolism and thrombosis	—	1	1
462.1	Varicose veins of Oesophagus	—	1	1
465	Pulmonary embolism and infarction	4	1	5
480	Influenza with Pneumonia	4	5	9
481	Influenza with other respiratory manifestations ...	6	2	8
490	Lobar Pneumonia	1	2	3
491	Broncho Pneumonia	8	6	14
500	Bronchitis Acute	4	—	4
502	Bronchitis Chronic	2	1	3
522	Hypostatic Pneumonia	8	4	12
526	Bronchiectasis	2	1	3
527.2	Acute Pulmonary Oedema	—	1	1
540.1	Perforating ulcer of stomach	1	—	1
541.1	Ulcer of duodenum with perforation	1	—	1
542.1	Gastrojejunal ulcer with perforation	1	—	1
570.2	Mesenteric infarction—thrombosis	1	—	1
571	Gastro-enteritis	1	1	2
581	Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—	1
584	Cholelithiasis—Gallstones	—	1	1
587	Pancreatitis Acute	—	1	1
587.1	Pancreatitis Chronic	—	1	1
587.2	Fibrocystic disease of pancreas	—	1	1
592	Chronic Nephritis	1	—	1
593	Nephritis—not specified	—	1	1
610	Enlarged Prostate	2	—	2

DEATHS FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1951—continued.

<i>Code No.</i>	<i>International Classification</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
751	Spina bifida	—	1	1
752	Congenital hydrocephalus	—	2	2
754	Congenital Malformation—Heart	1	—	1
756.2	Congenital Malformation—Oesophageal Atresia ...	—	1	1
762	Atelectasis—congenital	1	—	1
770	Haemolytic disease of Newborn	1	—	1
774	Prematurity	1	—	1
776	Immaturity unqualified	3	—	3
782.5	Syncope	—	1	1
786.5	Anuria	1	—	1
790.1	Asthenia	1	—	1
794	Senility	—	4	4
E.800	Railway Accident	1	—	1
E.840	Street car accident	2	—	2
E.851	Drowned accidentally	1	—	1
E.858	Water Transport accident of unspecified cause ...	1	—	1
E.904	Unspecified fall	—	1	1
E.971	Poisoning by barbituric acid (Lysol)	—	1	1
E.972	Suicide—Coal gas poisoning	3	—	3
E.974	Suicide—Strangulation	2	1	3
N.948	Burn of trunk, limbs and face	—	1	1
		<hr/> 264	<hr/> 189	<hr/> 453

CANCER MORTALITY, 1951

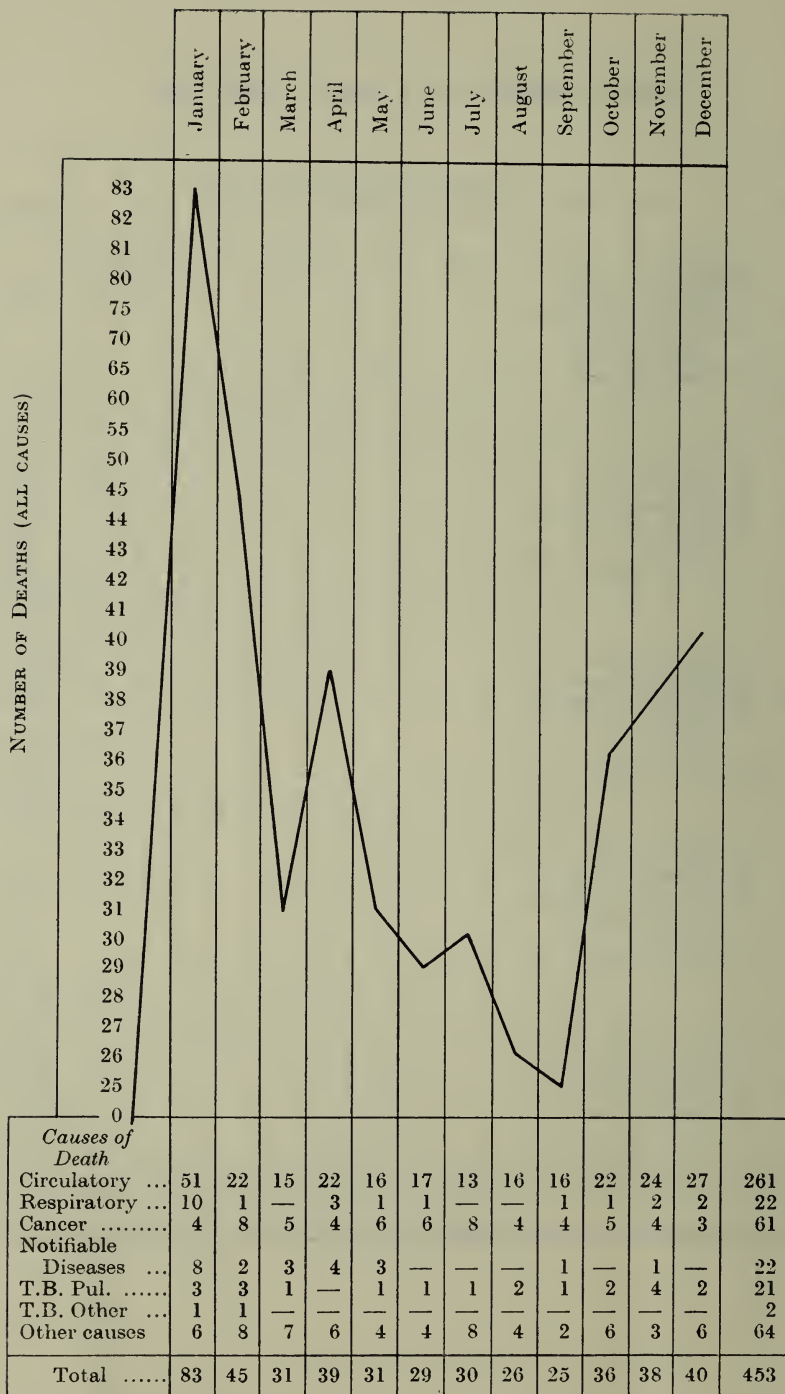
Situation of Disease and Age Groups, in Years

Site	Under 45 Yrs.		45-55 Yrs.		56-65 Yrs.		66-75 Yrs.		Over 75 Yrs.		Totals		Grand Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
<i>Digestive Tract</i>													
Colon & Caecum	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	3	4
Rectum	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Liver	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	2	3
Stomach	1	—	—	—	5	1	2	4	1	4	9	9	18
Oesophagus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	2
Upper Jaw	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
<i>Respiratory System</i>													
Bronchi	—	1	2	1	2	—	1	—	1	—	6	2	8
<i>Genito-Urinary System</i>													
Uterus	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	3	3
Prostate	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	4	—	4
Bladder	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
<i>Other Organs</i>													
Breast	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	4	4
Larynx	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Nasal	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Kidney	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Cervix	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	2
Sub-Maxillary Gland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Ovaries	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Vagina	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Lympho-sarcoma	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pancreas	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Eye	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	2	2	3	5	12	6	7	11	6	7	30	31	61

Cancer Deaths for 5 years, 1947-1951

Year	Site	Under 36 yrs.	36- 45	46- 55	56- 65	66- 75	Over 75	M.	F.	Total
1947	(1) Buccal Cavity	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	3
	(2) Digestive Tract ...	—	1	3	7	10	10	20	11	31
	(3) Respiratory System	—	—	2	4	4	—	8	2	10
	(4) Genito-Urinary System	—	2	3	1	1	1	—	8	8
	(5) Other Organs	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	2
		—	3	8	13	15	15	30	24	54
1948	(1) Buccal Cavity	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
	(2) Digestive Tract ...	—	1	4	11	8	6	18	12	30
	(3) Respiratory System	—	—	1	3	2	1	5	2	7
	(4) Genito-Urinary System	—	1	—	3	3	1	2	6	8
	(5) Other Organs	—	—	2	3	2	1	—	8	8
		—	2	7	20	15	10	26	28	54
1949	(1) Buccal Cavity	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(2) Digestive Tract ...	—	—	5	11	13	12	20	21	41
	(3) Respiratory System	—	—	1	5	3	—	7	2	9
	(4) Genito-Urinary System	—	—	—	6	4	—	5	5	10
	(5) Other Organs	—	1	—	3	3	3	4	6	10
		—	1	6	25	23	15	36	34	70
1950	(1) Buccal Cavity	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
	(2) Digestive Tract ...	—	2	5	6	11	11	20	15	35
	(3) Respiratory System	—	—	1	2	3	1	6	1	7
	(4) Genito-Urinary System	—	1	—	2	3	2	3	5	8
	(5) Other Organs	—	—	—	2	6	2	5	5	10
		—	3	6	13	23	16	35	26	61
1951	(1) Buccal Cavity	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(2) Digestive Tract ...	—	2	2	8	11	7	15	15	30
	(3) Respiratory System	—	1	3	2	1	1	6	2	8
	(4) Genito-Urinary System	—	—	1	3	2	2	5	3	8
	(5) Other Organs	—	1	2	5	4	3	4	11	15
		—	4	8	18	18	13	30	31	61

DEATHS 1951



ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT, 1951

Statistics of the Borough of Blyth for the last Ten Years

Year	Popu- lation	Deaths	Death Rate	Live Births	Birth Rate	Infantile Deaths	Infant Death Rate	Neo- Natal Death Rate	No. CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED							
									Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Acute Polionmyelitis	Bowel Complaints Dysentery Etc.	Tuberculosis	
															Pul.	Non- Pul.
1942	31,600	384	11.8	539	17.6	23	42.6	18.6	912	65	79	145	—	1	38	8
1943	30,590	403	11.9	604	18.1	39	64.5	39.7	80	123	90	98	—	4	57	8
1944	30,540	397	13.0	705	23.1	50	70.9	27.9	723	116	156	116	—	2	57	17
1945	31,080	394	12.6	658	21.2	38	57.7	22.8	87	69	79	108	—	11	56	8
1946	33,020	440	13.3	764	23.1	48	62.8	22.9	641	44	67	51	1	2	55	7
1947	33,920	469	13.8	858	25.2	45	52.4	33.4	256	29	122	23	1	—	47	11
1948	33,980	362	10.6	737	21.7	40	54.2	20.8	673	89	182	10	1	3	57	19
1949	35,300	422	11.9	708	20.0	28	39.5	24.0	352	39	98	1	1	—	72	12
1950	35,280	417	11.8	660	18.8	31	46.9	31.8	652	44	282	—	4	5	84	8
1951	34,110	453	13.2	674	19.7	21	31.1	14.8	490	57	93	—	—	1	88	2

Annual Returns for Ten Years of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Meningococcal Infection	Dysentery	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	Tuberculosis (Other)	Whooping Cough	Measles	Malaria	Para. Typhoid Fever	Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	Food Poisoning
1942	65	145	7	55	4	3	1	5	38	8	79	912	—	—	—	—	—	—
1943	123	98	13	82	6	1	4	2	57	8	90	80	—	—	—	—	—	—
1944	116	116	12	39	3	1	2	—	57	17	156	723	—	—	—	—	—	—
1945	69	108	6	35	3	9	10	3	56	8	79	87	1	1	—	—	—	—
1946	44	51	13	58	2	3	1	—	55	7	67	641	2	1	1	—	—	—
1947	29	23	13	50	1	8	—	2	47	11	122	256	1	—	1	—	—	—
1948	89	10	18	32	2	3	—	—	57	19	182	673	—	3	1	—	—	—
1949	39	1	6	27	3	1	—	—	72	12	98	352	—	—	1	—	—	1
1950	44	—	17	58	—	5	5	—	84	8	282	652	1	—	3	1	1	—
1951	57	—	10	54	—	5	1	—	88	2	93	490	—	—	—	—	—	—

Diphtheria

Year	Cases	Deaths	Remarks
1941	300	20	Not Immunised
1942	145	5	" "
1943	98	3	" "
1944	116	6	" "
1945	108	3	1 Immunised, Dec., 1942
1946	51	1	Not Immunised
1947	23	Nil	
1948	10	Nil	
1949	1	Nil	
1950	Nil	Nil	
1951	Nil	Nil	

Diphtheria Immunisation

Year ended 31st December, 1951

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Percentage of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1951.

Children immunised 0-15 years — 81.0%

TUBERCULOSIS, 1944-1951

Table showing the number of Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases notified in the respective years and the number of deaths which have occurred, and the time elapsed from notification to death :—

Year	No. of Notifications	No. of Deaths	Period within which death occurred						
			Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-6 yrs.	7-8 yrs.
1951	88	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
1950	84	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
1949	72	11	5	3	3	—	—	—	—
1948	56	19	7	8	3	1	—	—	—
1947	47	23	6	12	3	1	1	—	—
1946	55	25	21	2	2	—	—	—	—
1945	56	21	12	7	1	—	—	1	—
1944	58	25	5	5	6	7	1	—	1
Totals	516	136	68	37	18	9	2	1	1

Tuberculosis, 1951

	Notifications				Deaths			
	Males		Females		Males		Females	
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.
Totals	51	2	37	Nil	14*	2	7*	Nil
"	53		37		16		7	
Grand Totals	90				23			

*Includes Non-Notified T.B.
Cases—2 Deaths.

Tuberculosis, 1940-1951

Year	All forms of Tuberculosis Notifications per year	Number of Deaths per year	Death Rate per 1,000 population
1940	49	30	0.86
1941	57	20	0.53
1942	48	31	0.98
1943	65	20	0.65
1944	74	30	0.98
1945	64	24	0.77
1946	62	38	1.1
1947	58	37	1.1
1948	76	35	1.0
1949	84	27	0.76
1950	92	17	0.48
1951	90	23	0.65

Tuberculosis, 1951

Statement of Tuberculosis (as per Register)

	Males		Females		Totals
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	
(a) Number of cases of Tuberculosis on Register at commencement of year	156	31	131	24	342
(b) Number of new cases notified under the "Regulations of 1930" for the first time during the year	51	2	37	—	90
(c) Number of cases restored to Register having been removed previous to 1951	2	1	2	—	5
(d) Number of cases added to Register and brought to notice otherwise than by formal notification	4	—	4	—	8
(e) Number of cases removed from the Register during the year ...	36	12	26	2	76
(f) Number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year	177	22	148	22	369

Tuberculosis, 1951

Summary of information extracted from Records Department relating to cases removed from the Tuberculosis Register of the Borough during 1951.

	DEATHS				Grand Total		
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary				
	Males	Females	Males	Females			
	14	7	2	Nil			
Total	21		2		23		
	RECOVERED						
	13	8	10	1			
	Total	21		11		32	
		REMOVED FROM DISTRICT					
9		11	Nil	1			
Total		20		1			21
					76		

Tuberculosis, 1951

Age Groups	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0-1 ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
5-15	5	11	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	16	9	—	—	1	2*	1	—
25-35	9	9	—	—	—	2	—	—
35-45	2	5	—	—	1	1	—	—
45-55	8	2	—	—	3	2	—	—
55-65	6	1	—	—	7	—	—	—
over 65	2	—	—	—	1*	—	—	—
Totals	51	37	2	Nil	13	7	2	Nil
Grand Totals	88		2		20		2	

*Includes Non-notified T.B. Cases—2 Deaths.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND AGE DISTRIBUTION, 1951

Numbers of all cases of infectious and other notifiable diseases originally notified during the year 1951, and the Final numbers according to Sex and Age after Corrections subsequently made either by the Notifying Medical Practitioner or by the Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis				Measles	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	Paralytic		Non- Paralytic			
					M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Numbers originally notified.										
Total (all ages)	23	34	41	52	—	—	—	—	255	235
Final numbers after correction—										
Under 1 year	—	—	4	3	—	—	—	—	16	8
1-2 years	3	1	15	13	—	—	—	—	68	69
3-4 „	5	6	10	21	—	—	—	—	88	93
5-9 „	10	18	12	15	—	—	—	—	80	65
10-14 „	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
15-24 „	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 and over	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL (all ages)...	23	32	41	52	—	—	—	—	255	236
	Acute Pneumonia		Dysentery		Acute Encephalitis				Malaria	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	Infective		Post Infectious			
					M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Numbers originally notified.										
Total (all ages)	30	24	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Final numbers after correction—										
Under 5 years	8	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 „	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-44 „	8	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-64 „	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL (all ages).....	30	24	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Erysipelas		Menin- gococcal Infection		CORRECTED NOTIFICATIONS 1 Scarlet Fever to Measles 1 Scarlet Fever to Immunisation Rash.					
	M.	F.	M.	F.						
Numbers originally notified.										
Total (all ages)	3	7	3	2						
Final numbers after correction—										
Under 5 years	—	1	2	2						
5-14 „	—	1	1	—						
15-44 „	—	2	—	—						
45-64 „	3	—	—	—						
65 and over	—	3	—	—						
Age unknown.....	—	—	—	—						
TOTAL (all ages).....	3	7	3	2						

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1951

DISEASES	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	Over 65 years	Totals
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil.
Scarlet Fever	—	2	3	5	7	28	9	2	—	1	—	—	—	57
Whooping Cough	7	11	17	17	14	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	93
Measles	24	61	78	93	86	144	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	490
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil.
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil.
Pneumonia	7	—	3	4	1	9	1	3	4	6	4	4	8	54
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	2	4	10
Meningococcal Infection	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	2	—	—	—	1	3	11	27	18	7	10	7	2	88
Tuberculosis—Non-Pulmonary	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Peurperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil.
	42	75	102	119	112	212	25	34	23	14	15	13	14	800

RE-HOUSING

Number of families granted Council Houses, 1951, as per lists received from Rates Department.

FROM WARDS

	B	C	D	P	R	W	From outside Borough	Totals
<i>By Points Scheme</i>								
To Cowpen Road Estate	—	1	—	2	1	—	4	8
„ Newsham Road Estate No. 2 ...	—	1	—	5	—	—	—	6
„ Newsham Rd. Estate No. 2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
T.B. Cases	3	4	1	4	4	7	—	23
„ Other Council Schemes	—	2	—	2	—	1	—	5
„ Other Council Schemes, T.B. Cases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	3	8	1	13	5	9	4	43
<i>By Slum Clearance and Demolition Orders.</i>								
To Cowpen Road Estate	156	—	—	—	3	—	—	159
„ Newsham Rd. Estate No. 2 ...	—	1	1	—	6	3	—	11
„ Newsham Rd. Estate No. 2,	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
T.B. Cases	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
„ Other Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	157	1	1	1	9	4	—	173

B—Bebside. C—Croft. D—Delaval. P—Plessey. R—Ridley, W—Waterloo.

6 T.B. cases were re-housed in Council Estates from houses not in Clearance Areas or houses subject to Demolition Orders.

HOUSING REPORT, 1951

Houses completed in 1951.

Permanent Traditional—Direct Labour	141
Permanent Traditional—Contractors	59

Houses in Progress 31st December, 1951.

Permanent Traditional—Direct Labour	71
Permanent Traditional—Contractors	46

Houses approved by Ministry of Health but not commenced 31st Dec., 1951.

Permanent Traditional	10
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Permanent Houses built by Private Enterprise, 1951.

Permanent Traditional	3
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Houses completed Post-War.

Pre-fabs—Tarran	44
Pre-fabs—Aluminary Temporary	106
Pre-fabs—Aluminary Permanent	59
Pre-fabs—B.I.S.F. Permanent	72
Traditional	883

1164

LABORATORY FACILITIES

BACTERIOLOGICAL

(The Public Health Laboratory Service, Newcastle General Hospital,
Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne).

A. Pathological

(1) Throat, Nose and Ear Swabs

Corynebacterium	Diphtheria : Present	Nil
	Not found	23—23
Haemolytic Streptococci	Present	20
	Not found	53—73

(2) Sputum

B. Tuberculosis	Present	149
	Not found	640—789
„ „ (Culture)	Present 33	
	Not found 163	

(3) Faeces (Pathological)

Sh. sonnei isolated		1
Acid fast bacilli	Not found	2
„ „ „	Present	2
B. Tuberculosis	Present	1—6
No pathogens found	2	
Culture—B. Tuberculosis not found	1	

(4) Pleural Fluid

Ziehl Neelson—B. Tuberculosis	Present	1
	Not found	5—6
Culture—no growth	3	

(5) Urine

	Organisms found ...	1
	No organisms found	2—3
Culture—no organisms found	2	

(6) Other specimens

Pus from Gland : Culture : Growth of Staph. aureus.	
Swab : Film : No Gonococci found.	
	Numerous Gran negative found.
Swab : Culture : Pneumococci not found.	

B. Water, Milk, etc.

(1) Water samples

(a) Bacteriological	58
(b) Chemical	4—62

(2) Milk samples

(a) For B. Tuberculosis	41
(b) For Methylene Blue	41
(c) Pasteurised Milk—	
Methylene Blue	13
Phosphatase Test	13
(d) Sterility test on Milk Bottles	94

(3) Ice Cream

(a) Bacteriological—Methylene Blue Test	34
(b) Chemical	7

(4) Other Foods.....

(a) Bacteriological — Belgian Cooked Ham	1	2
	Corned Beef	1
	Mixed Pork & Brine	1
	Brine	1
		4
(b) Chemical — Corned Beef	1	1—5

FOOD HYGIENE

A high standard of hygiene in the food premises in Blyth is being maintained. Most traders realise the value and the necessity of treating this matter as one of great importance.

In 1951 legal action under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Food Byelaws was taken on one occasion only in respect of unsatisfactory conditions and a heavy fine was imposed on the offender—the case having been proved on all points.

One of the problems that faces the Health Department regarding food handlers is their clothing. This should be clean at all times and unfortunately this is not always observed. The difficulties here are :—

1. Most establishments require the employees to provide their own supply of overalls, etc.
2. The employee has to wash and iron the overalls or pay for a laundry to do this.
3. Laundry expenses can become a big item in a young female employee's budget when the minimum number of overalls is two per week.
4. Although the responsibility of seeing that the employees are clean and neat falls on the Owner or Manager, it would be the employee who would be prosecuted for wearing dirty overalls.

Suggestions as to how the problem can be tackled are as follows :—

1. Shops should provide clothing for their employees—this would be a quite large initial outlay but in my opinion an essential one.
2. The possibility of large firms establishing their own laundry service should be considered.
3. It may be advisable to use high aprons instead of overalls. These could be worn one side one day and the reverse side the next. Special aprons should be worn in any case when a dirty job is being done so that the normal working clothes are protected.

Lectures in hygiene and food handling were given by myself and the Senior Sanitary Inspector. These are to be repeated in the current year. The lectures included methods of food handling, diseases connected with food and the final session was given over to a film show.

No outbreak of food poisoning occurred in Blyth during 1951.

SICK BENEFIT SCHEME

During the year 1951, 197 workmen were sick. Approximately 48 were referred to the Health Department for examination.

	1951	1950
Number of workmen sick	197	129
Number of days lost by sickness	4,635	3,672
Number employed	440	255

In 1951 the average length of time off work was 24 days as opposed to $28\frac{1}{2}$ days in 1950.

It will be seen that the number of hours lost during 1951 was approximately 1,000 greater than 1950. It must be noted, however, that the number employed had increased by 185 men.

Number of days off	1950 Number of workmen sick in the period	1951 Number of workmen sick in the period
1—3	9	15
4—7	14	29
8—14	26	32
15—21	20	35
22—28	12	18
29—35	13	13
36—42	5	9
43—49	3	10
50—56	5	5
57—63	2	7
64—70	6	8
71—77	5	1
78—84	8	3
Over 85	1	11
	129	197

It will be seen that the commonest period of absence was 2-3 weeks.

There is no doubt that this is an excellent scheme for the employee and the employer. Advice can be given regarding suitable employment and certain employees have never been sick after their type of work had been changed, when formerly they were chronic attenders. Employees who are apt to try and gain a few extra days sick leave are persuaded to return to work—and in many cases fail to attend for examination. The number of real malingerers is insignificant. Most workers are only too glad to be passed fit for return to work. The employees take this examination as a matter of course now and prove really co-operative. This is really a form of industrial medicine and its scope will be extended slowly every year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—Section 47

In 1951 one person was removed under the above Section. This was a blind widow of 88 years living alone. She was living in deplorable conditions and was quite incapable of looking after herself or getting anyone to do it for her. Her son (66 years) who had previously made daily visits and helped her became ill and was unable to assist her. She refused domestic assistance and was becoming a danger to the neighbourhood in that she might easily fall in the fire.

An Order sanctioning her removal to a Home was granted by the Magistrates for a period of three months and this was subsequently extended for another three months. She is now a voluntary patient and is being well looked after in a local institution.

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES UNDER PART III

These fall into two groups :—

- (a) Those administered directly by the County Health Committee.
- (b) Those administered by the County Health Committee through the East Area Health Sub-Committee.

The former includes :—

- (1) Care of expectant and nursing mothers and young children.
- (2) Domiciliary midwifery service and home nursing service.
- (3) Health visiting service.

The latter includes :—

- (1) Supervision of the M. & C.W. buildings.
- (2) Arrangements for vaccination and immunisation.
- (3) The Ambulance service.
- (4) Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.
- (5) Home Help Service.

CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

This is carried out at three centres in Blyth—M. & C.W. Centre, Blyth, Cowpen and New Delaval.

Ante Natal Clinics

These clinics are held on the following days.

M. & C.W. CENTRE, BLYTH.

Monday, Thursday and Friday (New Bookings)	P.M.
POST NATAL : Every 2nd Tuesday	P.M.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics

M. & C.W. CENTRE, BLYTH

Tuesday	All day
Thursday	P.M.
TODDLERS : Every 2nd Monday	A.M.
Every 2nd Friday	A.M.

COWPEN

Every 2nd Friday	P.M.
TODDLERS : Every 4th Monday	P.M.

NEW DELAVAL

Every 2nd Wednesday	P.M.
TODDLERS : Every 4th Monday	P.M.

IMMUNISATION—DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH

M. & C.W. CENTRE, BLYTH

Every 2nd Monday	A.M.
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COWPEN

Every session.

NEW DELAVAL

Every session.

Immunisation of schools is carried out within a two-year period. Booster doses are given to children every 4 years and non-immunised children are given the opportunity of having a full course.

Co-operation between County Health Visitors and the district health department is good.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY SERVICE AND HOME NURSING

The nursing staff is as before—Blyth : Bebside :
and New Delaval :

Blyth is well served with Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics. An excellent clinic exists at Blyth and temporary accommodation is used at Cowpen and New Delaval.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Vaccination is left to the general practitioner unless a special request is made. It is difficult to follow up cases for examination when vaccination is performed at a clinic.

IMMUNISATION :

Infants and pre-school children are immunised at child welfare clinics. Full propaganda by poster, lecture and individual instruction is given by Doctors and Health Visitors.

SCHOOL CHILDREN

Each school in the area is visited every 18–24 months and the records reviewed. Booster doses are given to those previously immunised four or more years ago and the opportunity is taken to immunise those children who have not been done previously.

A very high percentage—85%–90% of 5–15-year olds have been immunised.

General Practitioners are very co-operative about returning immunisation record cards. This very important for maintaining accurate records.

THE AMBULANCE SERVICE

Blyth is a main ambulance depot. There is an establishment of 4 ambulances and a staff of 7 driver attendants.

During the year 1951—8156 patients were carried.
2778 journeys were made.
989 emergencies were
answered.
69674 miles were travelled.

This service is occasionally misused but it is so great a change from pre-1948 that it is scarcely to be wondered at and generally this area is reasonably good in that respect.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER CARE

Care Committees exist at Blyth, Bebside and New Delaval. They were founded on the old District Nursing Associations. The Committees are active and do considerable work in helping old and chronic sick. They are voluntary bodies.

I feel that more might be accomplished if some kind of skilled help could be given to these Committees such as an Almoner. Such a person would be able to co-ordinate the cases for the Committees to deal with.

The Domestic Help Service

This has grown considerably during 1951.

285 cases have been served in the Bedlington-Blyth area as compared with 245 in 1950.

There are 79 Home Helps and the service is still growing.

Most of the cases receive only part-time help. Confinement and certain acute cases are given full time assistance. Payment is assessed on the household income and varies from NIL to £5 0s. 6d. for 48 hours.

VOLUNTARY CLINIC

A Marriage Guidance Clinic is held at the M. & C.W. Centre, Waterloo Road, Blyth, every 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of each month, all day.

Part II.—Environmental Hygiene, 1951

Resume of Work carried out by the Health Department

Public Health Act, 1936

GENERAL.—A total of 2,687 inspections were made during the year 1951, under the Public Health Act, 1936, with regard to nuisances and general complaints by the public.

These complaints mainly refer to housing disrepairs and a considerable amount of time and correspondence is spent before the defects are eventually remedied, the principal reasons for this being set out in the Annual Report for 1950.

COLLIERY SPOILBANKS.—Continuous remedial measures were carried out by the National Coal Board to the extended spoilbanks at the Horton Grange Colliery by means of continuous water spraying and consolidation by a bulldozer.

Although the emission of fumes is aggravated by the spraying, the mounds are readily controlled and little spontaneous combustion has occurred during the year.

ASHPITS AND PRIVIES.—There has been a steady diminution in the number of ashpits and privies remaining in the Borough (a total of 133 Privies and 76 Ashpits having been abolished) principally due to the demolition of slum clearance areas where these objectionable facilities were still in existence. In the Seaton Sluice area however a number of these conveniences have been converted by the substitution of Chemical Closets and dustbins.

DISINFESTATION.—During the year some 120 houses were treated by the Department for the eradication of insect pests, involving the spraying of the premises with an approved insecticide and in persistent cases the fumigation of the rooms. As a general rule several visits are made in each case before final elimination is achieved so as to secure the complete destruction of any embryo pests which may have hatched out after the initial treatments.

A regular service is also provided to all principal food establishments in the town which, together with advice as

to storage of foodstuffs, disposal of wastes and general hygienic methods, has resulted in a steady improvement in this problem.

A disturbing feature however is the increasing number of complaints regarding the presence of wood pests, particularly wood boring insects and, as a general rule, the householder is not aware of the infestation until they find a number of "flight holes" by which time fairly substantial damage has been done.

One such particular case required the temporary rehousing of the tenant for several weeks whilst the internal woodwork, particularly the first floor joists and floorboards were removed and burnt, being beyond treatment, resulting in the expenditure of a considerable sum.

The public therefore are earnestly requested to assist themselves and the Department by the earliest possible notification if any such infestation is suspected.

KEEPING OF ANIMALS.—There are some 163 domestic pig-keepers in the Borough, the bulk of these being mainly self-suppliers with any additional animals due to breeding being sold to the Ministry of Food. With the exception of farms, all these animals are kept on the various allotments and are not causing any serious nuisance to domestic dwellings.

The chief difficulties so far as the Health Department is concerned are principally due to three factors :—

- (1) Lack of adequate water supply direct to the piggery, the supplies, where available, being by a shared standpipe, all water having to be carried.
- (2) Lack of adequate drainage.
- (3) Unsuitable construction, many of the buildings being of rough construction, with old wood being the principal material used.

In my opinion, the most satisfactory method of dealing with this problem would be for either the Council where the allotments are Council owned, or the Allotments Association, to construct approved piggeries in groups with all necessary facilities, the piggeries to be let at economic rentals. If such a method were adopted, the buildings,

constructed of a standard type, could be let either singly or in groups according to the individual breeder's requirements.

LICENSED PREMISES.—In continuance of the improvements carried out over the past two years, further structural alterations and other amenities were carried out to thirteen licensed premises in the Borough including the extensive reconstruction of three premises, the provision of complete new sanitary facilities to a further three premises and the provision of new washing and sterilising facilities to the remainder.

With the exception of certain of the older buildings in the former slum clearance areas, which will be eventually subject to application for transfer of the licences to new premises as building restrictions permit, the hygienic standard of the premises generally in the town has been steadily improved, but internal redecorations and refitting is still required in some instances.

Housing Act, 1936

SLUM CLEARANCE.—Steady progress was made during the year in the rehousing of families from existing slum clearance areas, a total of 170 families being rehoused and dwellings demolished.

Individual Unfit Houses :—

SECTION 9.—Repairs. No formal action was taken during the year with regard to the repair of houses under Section 9 of the Act. 3 Houses were repaired by informal action under the Act.

SECTION 11.—Demolition. A total of 34 individual unfit houses were the subject of representations under the Act, being the remaining block of Phoenix Street, a continuance of the 1950 programme, together with certain houses in Robert Street ; and a commencement was made with the Kitty Brewster Road area.

SECTION 12.—Closing. No action was taken during the year under this Section.

Housing Act, 1949

SECTION 3.—Preservation of certain houses unfit for human habitation—one house was subject to representation during the year, being Cowpen High House.

SECTION 20.—Improvement Grants. A number of tentative enquiries were received during the year but no completed applications in detail were submitted to the Council.

General

PROBLEM FAMILIES.—During the year more attention has been devoted to the existence of problem families and the causative factors involved. It was recognised that a tremendous amount of social work would be entailed if the problem family were to be dealt with effectively, but somewhere along the chain of circumstances creating this type of family an attempt had to be made at removing this threat to social health. These sub-standard families have characteristic features evident in some degree in nearly all cases.

The living conditions may be untidy, filthy or even squalid. Bedding is verminous, unclean and inadequate. There is a complete lack of household management with gross neglect evident in all things. The parents persistently fail to seriously accept responsibilities of conscientious housekeeping, care of children and in many instances there is lack of harmony between husband and wife. There is often evidence of poor health which may go on untreated but in the majority of families investigated the greatest factor was laziness together with the acceptance as normal of a low standard of life.

Potentially dangerous to health the effects of dirt and vermin may be spread from the household concerned to contacts at school, neighbours and visitors, and it was decided that dirt and vermin must first be eliminated before attempting to treat any other factor. The families under observation were advised of the best methods of cleaning, methods which destroy the fallacy of repapering and painting rather than using soap, water and scrubbing brush. Disinfestation was carried out by the Department and by regular visits, advice and criticism a cleaner and tidier atmosphere was obtained in about 60% of cases. Improve-

ments paved the way to diagnosing more accurately the causes of the problems and these will be treated as circumstances permit. In the cases where improvement has not been forthcoming to any extent, failure has not been accepted by the Department and patient, tactful effort will be maintained until an impression is made.

The families are also referred to the many services prepared to help where needed but greater advantage could be taken of :—

M. & C.W. Clinics.
School Health Services.
N.S.P.C.C.
Health Visitors.
Home Helps.
Probation Officer and others.

A start has been made and gradual improvement gives encouragement to tackle the wider issues involved in reducing the problem of the problem family.

Summary

So far as the Health Department is concerned there has been a steady improvement in the housing situation in the Borough which will be more marked when the tenants of existing individual unfit houses where closing or demolition orders have been confirmed, have been rehoused.

Although there has been a lessening in the number of representations submitted to the Housing Committee, this is not due to any diminution in the number of houses requiring such treatment, but is merely to allow the leeway in rehousing existing Orders to be overcome and there are still a considerable number of houses in the Borough which could be classed as "unfit for human habitation."

Difficulty is still being experienced, as explained in the Annual Report for 1950, in the execution of essential repairs to houses to prevent wastage.

Much time and thought has been spent by various organised bodies in an attempt to find a reasonable solution to the question of the repair of privately owned property so as to prevent a serious annual wastage that must, in some cases exceed the provision of new accommodation

and various memoranda on this subject have been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

One such suggestion puts forward the view that, subject to certain safeguarding conditions,* a permitted increase in the rental be allowed, on the issue by the sanitary inspector of a certificate that the repairs have been satisfactorily completed and that the house concerned is in a reasonable state of repair.

If such a proposal were adopted it would do much to improve the standard of housing in the country so far as houses of good structural condition are concerned, whilst houses which probably would be scheduled for slum clearance at an early date could be readily excluded.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN.—Progress throughout the year in the improvement of food premises and equipment has continued at a satisfactory rate and the list appended gives an indication of some of the results achieved.

Premises completely refitted and redecorated :—

Wet Fish	..	..	..	1
Grocery and Provisions	..	..	..	1
Cooked Meats	..	..	..	1
Confectionery..	..	..	..	1
Bread and Confectionery	..	..	..	1
Bakery, House and Shop	..	..	..	1
Cafe/Snack Bar	..	..	..	1
General Dealer	..	..	..	1

Premises partially refitted :—

Ice-cream Manufacturer	..	..	..	1
Grocery and Provisions	..	..	..	1
Fruiterer	..	..	..	1
Cooked Meats	..	..	..	1
Bakehouses	..	..	..	2

Premises redecorated internally and externally (not including premises completely refitted) :—

Cooked Meats	1
--------------	----	----	----	---

* Extract from Para. 62 of the Memorandum of the General Council of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association.

Premises redecorated internally :—

Grocery and Provisions	..	..	3
Ice-cream Manufacturer	..	..	1
Butchery	..	..	1
General Dealer and Ice-cream Manufacturer	..	..	1
Bakery and Shop	..	..	1

New Equipment Provided :—

Cooked Meats	..	..	1
Bakeries	..	..	2
Cafe/Snack Bar	..	..	1
Ice-cream Manufacturers	..	..	1
Washbasins installed	..	..	5
Heaters provided to washbasins	..	..	6

As referred to in the Annual Report for 1950, the bulk of these improvements have been effected by voluntary co-operation on the part of the traders, which is a very creditable performance.

There appears to be a general awareness on the part of the employees of the food premises of the necessity for personal hygiene, but one major obstacle so far as appearance is concerned is the cost of overalls which often require to be changed at least every two days, which coupled with the cost of laundering, is of considerable financial outlay to an employee with family obligations.

Efforts to overcome this problem are being conducted with at least one of the major suppliers in the town, by an attempt to interest them in the provision of a free laundry service as an experiment, which if successful, could be followed by the provision of standard overalls for all employees.

BAKEHOUSES.—With one or two exceptions the bakehouses in the Borough are of a good standard and during the year three bakeries had extensive improvements carried out, one new bakery was under construction and one bakery was closed as a result of legal proceedings (See Legal Proceedings).

For the past two years extensive alterations have been in progress at Messrs. Marshall's Bakeries Ltd. and during

1951, the former solid fuel ovens were replaced by three double-deck gas fired ovens, an electric flour sifter and an automatic washer for pastry boards and other equipment was installed, a new warehouse constructed and where the bakery walls were not constructed of glazed brick they have been tiled to ceiling height.

Subject to licensing approval further alterations are either in progress or under contemplation which, when completed, should make this bakery one of the most hygienic and up-to-date.

In addition to this work it is intended to refit the three retail shops in the Borough, plans for one of these having been submitted and approved. Mention should be made that the bulk of the products from the factory which handles confectionery only, is pre-packed in either cardboard or cellophane containers.

Messrs. Newmans Bakeries Ltd. have carried out considerable improvements to their Rosamond Place premises and an entire new bitumastic floor has been laid throughout the bakery, all workbenches have been aluminium covered, new dough mixing and flour sifting machinery installed and during the ensuing year it is hoped that the Packing and Despatch Room will be tiled.

Improvements are required to some of the smaller bakeries in the Borough but the premises in Carlton Street, formerly occupied by Mr. Dobson have changed ownership and the new occupier has had the entire bakery and shop completely renovated and put into first class condition.

CAFES AND RESTAURANTS.—The position with regard to Restaurant facilities in the Borough is not entirely satisfactory the principal obstacle to any large scale improvements seeming to be after observations spread over some five years, that the general public in Blyth are not “Cafe conscious” which is not conducive to the owner or proprietors spending any considerable sum on extensive alterations.

Efforts have been made by certain of the cafes to provide the best of facilities, but they are limited in some instances in that extension of the kitchen and storage accommodation is either impossible owing to their siting or not an economic proposition.

Action is however being taken by the Department to ensure that the best use is being made of available facilities, but it was found necessary during the year to issue Statutory Notices under Sections 13 (1) and (2) of the Act in respect of the Clock Cafe, Waterloo Road and the Cafe Cecil, Bowes Street, which resulted in the closure of the Cecil Cafe and the submission by the Owners of the Clock Cafe of a scheme to provide a new kitchen and preparation room with a completely new drainage system on the second floor. This work was well advanced at the end of the year.

BUTCHERING AND COOKED MEATS.—The cooked meats establishments in the town are of a very high standard and reflect the utmost credit on the proprietors. In one instance alternative premises are definitely required as the existing premises are situated in a derelict slum clearance area, but in spite of the difficulties occasioned to the occupier by lack of reasonable facilities, the hygiene of the establishment is quite satisfactory.

Similar remarks can be attributed to the butchering shops of the Borough but modernisation of several of the premises is an urgent need which, in some cases can only be solved by the construction of new shops.

Factories Act, 1937. Shops Act, 1950.

A new survey of all shops and factory premises in the Borough has now been completed and attention is being given to the provisions relating to heating, lighting, ventilation, sanitary accommodation and washing facilities.

GENERAL.—In the township generally the standard of hygiene is very good indeed and so far as economic obligations permit, every attempt is made by owners and occupiers to meet the requirements of the Council in the improvement of their premises and equipment. As pointed out in the Annual Report for 1949, however, difficulties are encountered where occupiers are not also the owners and where the premises are so congested so as to prevent extension, but the improvement is steady and progressive.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.—Proceedings under Section 13 (1) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 and Byelaw 6 (e) of the Byelaws relating to the handling, wrapping and delivery

of food were taken during the year in respect of a Bakehouse in the Borough, a total of 19 summonses under the Act and 3 under the Byelaws being heard.

Prior to the hearing the business was closed, but fines of £2 were imposed in respect of 13 summonses under the Act, dealing with the cleanliness of the premises, £5 for failing to provide adequate facilities for the cleanliness of the staff and £5 on each of five summonses concerning the cleanliness of food containers, a total of £56 plus £5 12s. 0d. costs.

SANITARY SECTION, 1951

Public Health Act, 1936. Summary of Notices Served

Number of Informal Notices served during the year :—

WARDS						Total
Bebside	Croft	Waterloo	Plessey	Ridley	Delaval	
23	68	70	26	70	6	263

Number of Informal Notices complied during the year :

WARDS						Total
Bebside	Croft	Waterloo	Plessey	Ridley	Delaval	
20	45	37	14	36	6	158

Number of Statutory Notices served during the year :—

Ward	Sec. 39	Sec. 45	Sec. 56	Sec. 75	Sec. 79	Sec. 93	Sec. 138	Food & Drugs Sec. 13	Pests Acts Sec. 4	Total
Bebside ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Croft	6	5	—	7	2	27	—	—	—	47
Waterloo...	8	7	1	13	—	18	—	3	—	50
Plessey ...	7	6	—	2	—	13	1	—	—	29
Ridley ...	23	5	1	11	—	22	—	—	1	63
Delaval ...	4	—	—	—	—	4	8	—	—	16
	48	23	2	33	2	84	9	3	1	205

Number of Statutory Notices complied during the year :—

Ward	Sec. 39	Sec. 45	Sec. 56	Sec. 75	Sec. 79	Sec. 89	Sec. 93	Sec. 138	Food & Drugs Sec. 13	Total
Bebside ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Croft	7	6	—	7	2	1	30	—	1	54
Waterloo...	4	3	—	7	—	—	7	—	2	23
Plessey ...	3	3	—	1	—	—	15	1	—	23
Ridley ...	22	4	1	10	—	—	25	—	—	62
Delaval ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	9
	40	16	1	25	2	1	83	1	3	172

Schedule of Defects remedied during the year :—

Defect	Informal	Statutory	Total
Chimney Stacks	2	3	5
Main Roofs	14	13	27
Drainage—			
Eaves, Gutters and Downspouts ...	43	47	90
Choked Drains	5	1	6
External Walls	8	4	12
Yards	2	3	5
Ceilings	4	7	11
Internal Walls—Plaster	6	11	17
Dampness	25	31	56
Floors	19	12	31
Windows	17	23	40
Staircases	4	2	6
Doors	22	17	39
Fireplaces	28	16	44
Sanitary Conveniences—Insufficient	1	—	1
Defective	23	29	52
Outbuildings—			
Coal Houses	5	14	19
Washhouses	2	6	8
Set Pots	3	9	12
Dust Bins	86	24	110
Ashpits	6	—	6
Water Supply—Insufficient	21	5	26
Unsatisfactory	—	—	—
Food Stores.....	3	1	4
Smoke Nuisance	9	1	10
Offensive Accumulations	1	—	1
Dirty Conditions	1	—	1
Miscellaneous	1	—	1
Totals	361	279	640

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938-1944

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

Details of Samples Taken

Sample of Raw Milk from Producers outside the Borough :—

METHYLENE BLUE		BACILLUS TUBERCULOSIS			Total Samples
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Positive	Negative	Tests not carried out	
21	20	4	34	3 Animals died	82

Pasteurised Milk from a Producer/Retailer inside the Borough :—

METHYLENE BLUE		PHOSPHOTASE TEST			Total Samples
Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Tests Void	
<i>By Borough</i> 11	1	11	1	—	24
<i>By County Council</i> 28	—	28	—	—	56
39	1	39	1	—	80

Pasteurised Milk from a Producer outside the Borough :

METHYLENE BLUE		PHOSPHOTASE TEST			Total Samples
Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- sactory	Tests Void	
1	—	1	—	—	2

Sterility Tests on Milk Bottles :—

Satisfactory	Fairly Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
83	2	20	105

Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950

The milk supply to the Borough is provided by the Co-operative Society's High Temperature, Short Time Pasteurising Plant, plus five dairymen retailing bottled pasteurised milk from Coast Creameries Ltd. and distributors retailing "Sterilised" milk in bottles only.

Samples of pasteurised milk are taken regularly for the Methylene Blue and Phosphotase Tests, raw milk prior to pasteurisation for B Tuberculosis and milk bottles for sterility.

Of the four positive samples of B Tuberculosis notified the following reports were received as a result of action taken by the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

- Report No. 1. One cow died.
One cow sent to Knacker's Yard showing induration of the udder.
- Report No. 2. Three cows sold.
- Report No. 3. Two cows sent to collecting centre.
One accepted as Owner's risk, with hard quarter.
- Report No. 4. One cow slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

Reports No. 1 and 4 related to the same producer.

Further samples for biological examination showed no *Bacillus Tuberculosis* present.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938—Details of Analysts' Reports

ICE CREAM.

Manu- facturer	BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS			CHEMICAL ANALYSIS			Samples taken from
	No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Test	Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue	Water	Non-fatty Solids	Fat	
No. 1	1	Grade 1	4½ hrs.	74.6	22.1	3.3	Continuous freezer in Shop
	2	"	4½ "	—	—	—	" "
	3	"	1 "	—	—	—	Storage refrigerator in shop.
	4	"	4½ "	—	—	—	Container in shop.
	1	"	4½ "	66.6	27.3	6.1	Continuous freezer in shop.
No. 2	2	"	4½ "	—	—	—	" "
	3	"	4½ "	—	—	—	Container in Factory.
	4	"	4½ "	—	—	—	Storage refrigerator in Fa ory
	1	"	4½ "	—	—	—	" "
	5	"	4½ "	—	—	—	" "
No. 3	1	"	4½ "	*68.0	25.7	6.3	Continuous freezer in Factory.
	2	"	4½ "	71.8	24.9	3.3	Salt and ice contained on horse drawn vehicle.
No. 4†	3	"	½ "	—	—	—	Container in Factory.
	1	"	4½ "	—	—	—	Continuous freezer in shop.
	2	"	4½ "	—	—	—	" "
No. 5	3	"	4½ "	—	—	—	" "
	1	"	4½ "	66.0	23.8	10.2	Storage refrigerator in shop.
	2	"	3 "	—	—	—	Hardening Room in Factory.
No. 6	3	"	3 "	—	—	—	" "
	1	"	4½ "	70.7	—	—	" "
	2	"	0 "	—	26.1	3.2	Continuous freezer in Factory.
	3	"	½ "	—	—	—	Salt and Ice container in Factory.
	4	"	2 "	—	—	—	Continuous freezer in Shop.
	5	"	4 "	—	—	—	Storage refrigerator in Shop.
	6	"	½ "	—	—	—	" "
		"		—	—	—	" "

Manu- facturer	BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS			CHEMICAL ANALYSIS			Samples taken from
	No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Test	Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue	Water	Non-fatty Solids	Fat	
No. 7	1	Grade 1	4½	66.9	30.5	2.6	Hardening Room in Factory
	2	" 2	4	—	—	—	Continuous freezer in Factory
No. 8†	1	" 1	4½	—	—	—	Storage refrigerator in Shop
No. 9†	1	" 1	4½	—	—	—	" "
No. 10†	1	" 4	0	—	—	—	" "
	2	" 2	3	—	—	—	" "
	3	" 2	3½	—	—	—	" "
	4	" 2	4	—	—	—	" "
	5	" 2	4	—	—	—	" "
	6	" 2	4	—	—	—	" "

†—Pre-packed Ice-Cream.

*Submitted privately.

OTHER FOODS

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

	<i>Result</i>
1. Belgian Cooked Ham	Culture—no growth after 48 hrs. Aerobic and Anaerobic incubation
2. Corned Beef	" "
3. Mixed Pork and Beef taken from Brine Tub	" " Chromogenic organisms found
4. Brine consisting of salt and salt petre	" " "

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

Analyst's Report

1. Corned Beef—Specimens taken from a consignment of 25 cases, each containing 48—12 oz. tins	Rancidity Test—Negative Oxidation Test—Negative Odour—Paraffin.
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Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 to 1951

Percentage of Grades 1951 with comparative figures for 1950.

PRODUCERS INSIDE THE BOROUGH

Manufacturer	Grade I		Grade II		Grade III		Grade IV	
	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950
No. 1	75	100	—	—	25	—	—	—
No. 2	100	80	—	20	—	—	—	—
No. 3	66.7	55.6	—	22.2	33.3	—	—	22.2
No. 4	33.3	100	66.7	—	—	—	—	—
No. 5	16.6	28.6	16.6	28.6	50	28.6	16.6	14.2
No. 6	50	50	50	16.6	—	—	—	33.4

PRODUCERS OUTSIDE THE BOROUGH

*Pre-packed
Ice Cream
Manufacturers*

No. 1	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. 2	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. 3	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. 4	—	—	83.4	—	—	—	16.6	—

In only one case did the ice-cream sampled, repeatedly fail to come within the required bacteriological standard and advice and assistance were given to the manufacturer concerned, which, together with the installation of more modern equipment, should result in an improvement during the ensuing year.

There was an upward trend in the percentage of Grade I and II being 74% for 1951, as against 67.5% for 1950, of samples taken.

The number of producers in the Borough is 6, the number of retailers selling pre-packed ice-cream being 31 of which 12 were registered during the year.

Meat Inspection—Animals Slaughtered

Month	Bulls	Bullocks	Heifers	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
January	1	57	14	11	—	429	4	516
February	1	40	19	8	—	341	24	433
March	—	42	22	5	—	314	93	476
April	—	88	38	10	—	416	95	647
May	1	71	54	4	—	332	87	549
June	1	23	9	5	4	238	56	336
July	—	21	76	8	—	314	1	420
August	—	82	151	18	—	516	1	768
September ..	—	86	204	16	—	766	2	1074
October	1	106	146	33	—	737	1	1024
November ...	—	72	140	31	—	531	9	783
December.....	—	25	76	25	—	370	21	517
Totals	5	713	949	174	4	5304	394	7543

The following carcasses, part carcasses and organs were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

	No.	Weight in lbs.
Cattle : Entire carcasses and all organs	5	3,628
Sheep : " " " "	9	496
Pigs : " " " "	1	38
Cattle : Part carcasses and/or organs	1,493	16,416
Sheep : " " " "	42	139½
Pigs : " " " "	2	15
Beef : Hindquarters	6	823
" Forequarters	1	269
" Trimmings	—	408
" Kidney and Kidney Fat	—	15
Pork :	—	37
Pigs' Heads :	4	56
Mutton :	—	47

Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937

The following imported meats were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

	No.	Weight in lbs.
Beef : Hindquarters	—	202
Mutton :	—	50
Corned Beef :	449 tins	468
Jellied Veal	1 "	4
Mutton :	1 "	24
Cooked Ham	—	18½

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1,667	174	4	5,304	394
Number inspected	1,667	174	4	5,304	394
All diseases except Tuberculosis :					
1. Whole carcases condemned	3	—	—	9	1
2. Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1,139	43	—	64	2
3. Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	68.5	24.1	—	1.37	0.76
Tuberculosis only :					
1. Whole carcases condemned	—	2	—	—	—
2. Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	83	63	—	—	5
3. Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.9	31.6	—	—	1.26

Slaughter of Animals

The contemplated improvements outlined in the Annual Report for 1950, were duly carried out, namely the conversion of a lairage to form a hanging room, the provision of a complete new set of hanging rails in the main slaughter hall and hanging room, the erection of a new beast and sheep lairages and the fitting of two new hoists which, after installation, were converted for electric power operation, by the Ministry of Food. A much needed further improvement was provided by the installation of a vertical steam boiler and a pig scalding tank without which it would not have been possible to cope with the greatly increased allocation of pigs.

The quality of the animals slaughtered remains at a high standard, the condemnation of carcases being only 5 out of 1841 cattle slaughtered (0.27%) and 9 out of 5304 sheep slaughtered (0.17%) which is extremely good.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Other Foods

The following foodstuffs were found in the course of inspection to be unfit for human consumption and were treated as follows :—

Milk	Tins—Destroyed	262	Cream		
Meat	„ „	416	Whipping Jars—Destroyed	1	
Vegetables ...	„ „	734	Onions „ „	1	
Tomatoes.....	„ „	792	Cakes .....Boxes	1	
Fruit	„ „	256	Chicken	225½	lbs.
Fish	„ „	91	Cake	136	lbs
Tomato Juice	„ „	5	Pork Sausage	200	„
Cooked Ham	„ „	69	Raisins	29¾	„
Soup	„ „	22	Marshmallows	152	„
Syrup	„ „	3	Rabbit	101	„
Sauce	„ „	1	Bacon	85	„
Morfat	„ „	4	Cooked Ham	188½	„
Preserves ...	„ „	14	Candied Peel	½	„
Fruit Salad	„ „	2	Sugar	96	„
Pudding	„ „	7	Cheese	38	„
Cottage Pie	„ „	1	Cooked Meats	17	„
Cheese			Spam	8	„
(Processed)	„ „	179	Pork Pie ...	4	„
Jellied Veal	„ „	4	Margarine ...	5½	„
Chicken	„ „	5	Eggs	100	
Chopped Pork	„ „	6	Meat Pies ...	10	
Salad Cream	„ „	5	Fruit Pies ...	3	
Cake			Swiss Rolls	9	
Mixture ...	Packets „	36			
Corn Flakes...	„ „	28			
Sweets	„ „	24			
Nescafé	Tins „	2			
Sandwich					
Spread ...	„ „	1			
Tongue	„ „	1			
Rabbit	„ „	1			

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Water Sampling

The following water samples were taken during the year for analysis :—

	BACTERIOLOGICAL	<i>No. of Samples</i>
1.	Newcastle Water	13
2.	Hepscott Water (before Chlorination)	14
3.	Mixed Hepscott and Newcastle Water (after Chlorination) ...	13
4.	Tynemouth Water	12
5.	Barmoor Colliery (Inlet pipe from Barmoor Colliery to Hepscott Reservoir)	1
6.	Barmoor Colliery—Hepscott Reservoir.....	1
7.	Barmoor Colliery—Storage tank (house) direct from Reservoir Hepscott (5 Coliform Bacilli)	1
8.	Choppington “A” Colliery—Mixed sample Colliery pond : Brockwell and Harvey Seam —1 (180+ Coli bacilli)	
9.	„ „ Harvey Seam —1 (180+ Coli bacilli)	
10.	„ „ Brockwell Seam —1 (180+ Coli bacilli)	

All the samples with the exception of Nos. 7, 8, 9 and 10 proved to be satisfactory.

	CHEMICAL	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>
1.	Newcastle Water	1	Satisfactory
2.	Water from the Brockwell Seam, Choppington “A” Colliery	1	Unsuitable
3.	Water from the Harvey Seam, Choppington “A” Colliery	1	„
4.	Mixed sample from the Colliery Reservoir	1	„

Water Supply

The water supply to the Borough is obtained from three sources and the total amount consumed during the year was as follows :—

SOURCE OF SUPPLY	<i>Gallons consumed</i>
Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co.	330,010,000
Tynemouth Corporation	6,399,000
Hepscott (Barmoor)	42,311,000

Bacteriological Analysis—54 samples of water (Ref. 1-6) were taken of the principal water supplies to the Borough and in every case these proved to be satisfactory.

The sample (Ref. No. 7) was the supply to the Care-taker's house only, being drawn direct from Hepscott Reservoir and pumped to a storage tank in the house. The sample proved to be unsatisfactory, probably due to prolonged storage as the pump mechanism was faulty, this being duly remedied.

Samples (Ref. Nos. 8-10) were taken from the Choppington "A" Colliery with a view to ascertaining whether the water could be used to implement the supplies to the Borough, but owing to the unsatisfactory nature of the reports no further action was taken.

Chemical Analysis.—One chemical sample was taken of the supply of Newcastle Water to the Borough, which proved to be perfectly satisfactory.

The three samples (Ref. Nos. 2-4) were taken in conjunction with the bacteriological sample (Ref. Nos. 8-10) but were unsatisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Part I of the Act

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):—

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspec- tions (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecu- ted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sec- tions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	48	11	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	136	124	2	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding out-workers premises)	3	4	8	—	—	3
TOTAL	—	188	143	2	—	—

2.—Cases in which Defects were found :—

Particulars	M/c line No.	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were institu- ted	M/c line No.
		Found	Reme- died	Referred			
				To H.M. Inspec- tor	By H.M. Inspec- tor		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	4	1	1	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreaosnable temp. (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate Ventila- tion (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveni- ences (S.7)	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(a) Insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	—	6	—	6	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not includ- ing offences relat- ing to Outwork) ...	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL	60	1	7	—	6	—	60

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

During 1951, the following treatments were carried out by the Rodent Officer :—

Type of Premises	No.	Baits Laid	Traps Laid	No. of Bodies		Estimated Kill	No. of Visits
				Rats	Mice		
Dwelling Houses ...	81	509	80	—	94	14	258
Food Shops	36	589	78	1	127	2	153
Bakehouses	15	264	31	—	74	28	65
Bakers Shops	2	16	2	—	1	—	7
Other Shops	3	61	—	—	—	—	15
Toffee Manufacture	2	130	—	—	4	—	5
Sweet Shops	2	27	—	—	1	—	8
Greengrocers Shops	7	34	30	—	18	—	28
Cafes	2	78	—	—	2	—	7
Corn Merchants ...	2	130	9	—	58	—	9
Warehouses	7	178	9	1	21	5	29
Canteens	2	30	6	—	18	—	7
Crisp Factory	1	21	—	—	1	—	4
Cinemas	4	542	2	1	50	2	14
Granaries	3	124	—	8	—	90	16
Offices	1	10	3	—	1	—	3
Church premises ...	4	105	9	1	6	17	20
Schools	4	48	—	—	—	—	12
Poultry Runs	4	73	—	4	—	76	18
Farm Premises ...	8	591	11	39	—	593	40
Farm Stacks	1	76	—	10	—	113	5
Allotments	17	277	3	19	—	271	78
Gardens	19	108	—	8	—	111	91
Dairies	1	20	—	—	1	—	3
Garages	2	27	—	—	2	4	10
Hawkers Yard.....	1	10	—	—	—	6	5
Refuse Tips	3	703	—	82	—	726	54*
Corporation			10 Holes				
Properties	8	172	gassed	—	2	98	34
Piggeries	7	62	—	2	—	84	34
Stables	2	24	—	1	—	8	9
Shipyard	1	973	—	23	18	334	22
Foundry	1	48	—	3	5	28	5
		man-holes baited					
Sewers (Areas) ...	8	409	—	7	—	105	1224*
Open Sewers	1	40	—	7	—	37	4
TOTALS	262	6509	273 10 holes gassed	217	504	2752	1018 *1278 baited Points

During the year the former temporary Rodent Officer, Mr. R. Cramp, terminated his services with the Council and Mr. B. Wade was appointed on the 22nd October, 1951 in a permanent capacity.

Very satisfactory results have been obtained and all the principal food establishments in the Borough are regularly serviced.

Two sewer treatments as required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries were carried out, but there is little evidence of any serious infestation in these.

As will be seen from the above table, a great variety of premises have been dealt with and recovery charges where due, amounted to the sum of £121 14s. 0d.

Cats and Dogs Destruction

During the year the following animals were humanely destroyed :—

<i>Month</i>	<i>Dogs</i>	<i>Cats</i>	<i>Total</i>
January	27	12	39
February	18	9	27
March.....	22	20	42
April	28	16	44
May	29	20	49
June	33	20	53
July	25	21	46
August	31	21	52
September	13	14	27
October	41	19	60
November	22	13	35
December	41	4	45
TOTALS	330	189	519

The electric lethal chamber at the Albion Yard Depot continues to provide a very useful service as shown by the number of animals humanely destroyed.

The service is available from 2-0 to 3-0 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday of each week. A charge of 2/6 for each dog and 1/- for each cat is made, the amount derived during the year being £50 14s. 0d.

[illegible]

SANITARY SECTION—Details of Inspection—continued.

Number of Inspections made during the year 1951	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	Grand Total
(c) <i>Factories Act, 1937</i>														
Inspections of Factories (a) Mechanical Power	—	—	—	42	16	6	10	10	2	5	19	10	120	3,903
(b) No Mechanical Power	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	4	
(d) <i>Shops Act, 1950</i>														4,172
Sanitary and other arrangements in Shops	27	54	17	62	9	2	69	—	2	11	16	—	269	
(e) <i>Pests Act, 1948</i>														4,187
Inspections of Allotments	3	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	7	
" Council Properties	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
" Other Properties	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	6	4,362
" Farms	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
(f) <i>Infectious Diseases (Notification) Acts</i>														4,362
Investigations made	11	13	8	28	18	19	18	4	6	14	17	19	175	
(g) <i>Food and Drugs Act, 1938 to 1950</i>														1,896
Abattoir—Meat Inspection	26	14	25	43	30	20	23	34	38	46	43	29	371	
Cottagers' Pigs	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	12	
Examination of Unsound Foodstuffs	16	10	23	13	13	14	21	16	5	15	18	17	181	6,258
Bakehouses	1	—	3	20	2	8	14	16	2	2	18	7	93	
Bakery and Confectionery Shops	5	—	—	8	3	3	5	4	4	4	9	4	46	
Butchers' Shops	14	13	5	6	1	1	6	4	5	4	8	4	71	53
Fish and Chips Shops	2	4	3	3	4	—	4	13	4	1	5	10	53	
General Dealers Shops	12	2	9	7	3	3	6	—	5	2	34	2	85	
Grocery and Provision Shops	14	12	2	18	2	3	23	7	7	3	6	4	101	19
Greengrocery Shops	1	2	1	5	—	3	7	—	1	2	—	—	19	
Preserved Food Premises	2	2	1	3	—	3	2	1	—	—	—	3	17	
Wet Fish Shops	—	4	1	2	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	11	14
Food Manufacturing premises	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	3	4	—	—	14	
Ice Cream premises (a) Manufacturing	—	14	7	2	10	10	5	3	1	3	2	—	57	
(b) Retail	—	—	3	5	5	1	4	11	—	1	1	—	31	66
Restaurants and Cafes	5	3	2	6	7	10	3	3	3	8	10	6	66	
Market Stalls	18	26	23	23	53	62	50	77	65	62	44	64	567	100
Food Vehicles	—	—	2	—	11	—	23	19	15	10	12	8	100	
Horse Meat Shops	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
														1,896
														6,258

(h) *Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949*

Inspections of Dairies and Equipment	1	2	1	2	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	16
" Heat Treatment Plant	1	2	—	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
" Milk Shops	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	35	—	—	40
																65
																6,323
<i>(i) Miscellaneous</i>																
Number of Visits in connection with Water Samples	3	3	6	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	39
Number of Visits in connection with Milk Samples	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	27
Number of Visits in connection with Ice Cream Samples	—	—	3	3	3	5	5	8	4	3	3	3	—	—	—	34
Number of visits in connection with Other Foods	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Miscellaneous Inspections	7	3	4	8	6	58	18	6	27	17	17	17	17	5	5	176
Interviews	10	19	19	57	27	57	23	33	25	8	8	8	27	22	22	327
																607
																6,930
<i>(j) Rag Flock Act, 1951</i>																
Inspections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	4	—	—	—	4
																6,934
<i>(k) Sampling</i>																
Samples taken for analysis—Chemical																
(a) Water	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
(b) Ice-Cream	—	—	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
(c) Other Foods	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
																10
																6,944
Samples taken for analysis—Bacteriological																
(a) Milk	18	16	14	18	12	6	10	5	5	5	5	5	4	3	3	116
(b) Milk Bottles	6	6	11	11	11	6	6	6	6	18	18	18	12	6	6	105
(c) Water	4	4	10	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	54
(d) Ice-Cream	—	—	3	3	3	5	5	8	4	3	3	3	—	—	—	34
(e) Other Foods	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
																313
																7,257

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—1951

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1951. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Borough and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000–50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administra- tive County
Rates per 1,000 Home Population				
BIRTHS—				
Live Births	15.5	17.3	16.7	17.8
Still Births	0.36	0.45	0.38	0.37
DEATHS—				
All Causes	12.5	13.4	12.5	13.1
Typhoid and paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.31	0.37	0.31	0.38
Influenza	0.38	0.36	0.38	0.23
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Acute poliomyelitis (includ- ing polioencephalitis) ...	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.61	0.65	0.63	0.61
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)—				
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01
Meningococcal infection ...	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
Scarlet Fever	1.11	1.20	1.20	1.10
Whooping Cough	3.87	3.62	4.00	3.11
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.15
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	14.07	13.93	14.82	14.64
Pneumonia	0.99	1.04	0.96	0.72
Acute poliomyelitis (includ- ing polioencephalitis) ...				
Paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Non-paralytic	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02
Food Poisoning	0.13	0.15	0.08	0.23
DEATHS—				
Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
All causes under 1 year of age	29.6 (a)	33.9	27.6	26.4
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age ...	1.4	1.6	1.0	0.7
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)—				
Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births				
Puerperal fever and pyrexia	10.66	13.77	8.08	14.9

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Intermediate List No. and cause	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
A115 Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	70	0.10	0
{ Abortion with toxæmia	3	0.00	0
A116 { Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	167	0.24	
A117 Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth ...	91	0.13	
A118 Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia ...	37	0.05	4
A119 Abortion with sepsis ...	66	0.99	7
A120 Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	125	0.18	

(a) Per 1,000 related live births.

